



Lowell

Framing a Call to Action

Youth Engagement

Youth Journey On the High Seas: *Friendship Sails!* NYC

It was a vision of youth at sea aboard a replica 18th century sailing vessel in 2011. How else to describe this opportunity, except "once in a lifetime"? The students were participants in SCIP (Mass Parks Student Career Intake Program). The team undertook the journey from Salem, MA to New York Harbor and back aboard the sailing vessel *Friendship* with the ship's crew, staff and volunteers from Salem Maritime National Historic Site. They also spent five days docked in Manhattan and sailing in New York Harbor sharing the history and stories of youth engaged with the National Park Service. The planning and preparations were intense. The expedition itself, at turns breathtaking and stomach turning, saw 40 young people bridging between the skills of early mariners and those of current tech-savvy students. Whether they were raising sails, keeping watch, or blogging along the way, the itinerary was packed. In NY, the SCIP crew teamed with urban youth from NY and MD engaging in stewardship and leadership development activities to raise awareness of the Department of the Interior's America's Great Outdoors programs to hundreds of youth and the general public. Each returned to the home port of Salem with memories of challenges faced, friendships forged, and lessons learned and cherished. Upon their return, the SCIP youth shared their experiences with the Lowell Spindle City Corps and 100 youth from the Boston area for a day of activities and celebrations on the *Friendship*.

The Student Career Intake Program (SCIP) advances a cohort of four students each year toward discovering the potential of a National Park Service career. SCIP is a partnership between the Park, Boston Harbor Islands NRA, Thompson Island Outward Bound, and national parks around Massachusetts. Spindle City Corps (SCC) is a Park partnership with Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI). During the summer, students spend 8 weeks working on Park and community projects, while also engaged in leadership development and discovering the National Park Service. Each program receives funding for youth employment through Public Land Corps, other federal sources, and those parks engaged.

Captain SCIP
(Manny Cruz) reported...

"I hope when you read this, you know that adventure, tradition and history are very much alive in the 21st century and that America is still beautiful.

**Hip hip
Huzzah!"**

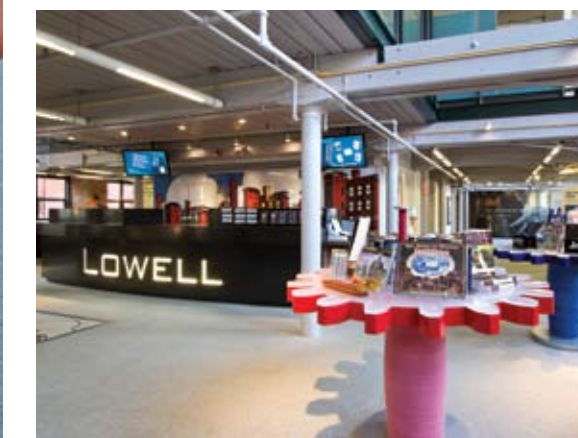


Home Grown & Live and Learn

Community /Culture

Lowell Folklife Series

The spirit of the Lowell Folk Festival is alive throughout the year as the Lowell Folklife Series continues to grow. During the Festival itself, the Series hosted master crafters and their apprentices as well as the Foodways theme of “Around the World with Pasta.” In contrast with the Festival’s concentrated three days pumped up with traditional music, food, and crafts, the Series now hosts a monthly program, each with a distinct emphasis. In the first full year’s program, audiences enjoyed new favorites, among them Mexican chocolate, local ethnic markets, and the Cambodian New Year. The continued partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council brings state folklorist Dr. Maggie Holtzberg as series director. The coming year’s programs span deep-rooted cooking traditions of four cultures, music of Greek refugees, and wedding foods of India, among others.



Visitor Center Entrance and Museum Store: Visitors enjoyed a new visitor entrance and museum store as the renovations took shape by the Park and cooperating association, Eastern National.

Trolley Crossings

A feasibility study completed by The Lowell Plan showing the potential for the City to host an expanded streetcar system, led to over \$3M in funding for the Park and City for next steps with design and existing system upgrades. Many are engaged with creating a system that will accommodate and move Park visitors, commuters, and students around downtown and campuses.



Dickens in Lowell

Dickens in Lowell celebrates 200 years of Charles Dickens and his transformative 1842 tour of Lowell, a day he called “the most pleasant” of his trip to America. To celebrate his 2012 bicentenary, the Park and UMass Lowell engaged with numerous partners. A seven month series of events, movies, tours, puppet shows, a symposium, and fashion shows are among the wide-ranging programs in Lowell. As the City was abuzz during Dickens 1842 visit, it is again in 2012.



Education



Tsongas Industrial History Center Turns 20

The acronym TIHC connotes a noteworthy partnership that is now in its 20th year, and such an anniversary allows reflection. The Park and University of Massachusetts Lowell’s Graduate School of Education teamed up to bring integrated experiences of Lowell’s cultural and historic resources with innovative workshops to students and educators via the Tsongas Industrial History Center. A generation of students as well as educators has attended the Center’s programs since 1991, totaling over 1 million.



In addition to celebrating this benchmark year with a wide-ranging series of programs, the Center continues to evolve and serve as a model. In August, the Education Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board visited Lowell with an emphasis on discovering the TIHC, including “Workers on the Line,” as they role-played Lowell workers and challenges they faced. Program enhancements include students afloat on the Merrimack River, who as participants in the River as a Classroom program, now delve deeper as citizen scientists at the new laboratory in the Bellegarde Boathouse. A soon-to-arrive river exploration boat will improve student discovery opportunities. Look for additional modifications as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) is increasingly revealed in TIHC programs. The University is a recent recipient of an iSense grant from the National Science Foundation, which includes a focus on TIHC programs and these courses of study.



Clockwise from left: National Park System Advisory Board Education Committee as ‘Workers on the Line’. Weaving in the ‘Bale to Bolt’ workshop. Students explore cultural artifacts in ‘Yankees and Immigrants’ program. Students discover the cotton gin.



Historic Preservation

Ongoing Redevelopment

In 2011, the *Lowell Sun* shared the ongoing success story of historic preservation of redeveloped city properties through a special newspaper insert, “Mill City Makeover.” The mills and canals that make up Lowell’s historic landscape provide the context for 21st century Lowell. The publication offers a summary collection of redeveloped historic properties and the developers involved.

In the year since it was printed, numerous additional projects have moved forward. At Boott Mills, Hamilton Mills, Lawrence Mills, Mass Mohair Mills (known as the Western Avenue Studios) and the Saco-Lowell Mill (most recently Freudenberg Nonwovens), there are projects valued at \$103 million now underway. When completed, the successful rehabilitation of mill properties will have reached approximately 90% of the over 5 million square feet available. Total investment in Lowell’s historic properties since 2000 now totals approximately \$570 million.

The Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Incentive Program, administered by the National Park Service, has been essential in each of the mill rehabilitation projects underway this year. A similar program adopted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has helped bring some of these projects into financial viability.

Lowell’s commitment to historic preservation is a model locally, nationally, and internationally.



Appleton Mills continues its transformation with Lowell Community Health Center’s new facility, while condominiums (shown below) are in the works at Boott Mills West.

Design:
Higgins & Ross

Photography:
Higgins & Ross: cover and all interior photos except Education Committee.
National Park Service: all other photos.

Many Thanks to
Volunteers-in-Parks!

Volunteers: **2,131**

Volunteer Hours Contributed: **90,153**

Farewells & Congratulations!



Michael Creasey and Spindle City Corps students at the City of Lowell 175th Anniversary.

Moving On...

Lowell National Historical Park celebrates the transitions of employees in the past year:

Michael Creasey, Superintendent, stepped into the new roles of Superintendent at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Vermont, Director of the Conservation Study Institute, and organizer of a new NPS collaborative for creativity and innovation.

Jonathan Parker, Park Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator, is now the Chief of Interpretation & Education at Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites.

We would like to bid a fond farewell to the following staff that have retired:

Ted Davis, *Facility Manager*

Ray "Francis" Howard, *Maintenance Work Supervisor*

Will Lavallee, *Mechanic Supervisor*

Pat Pendergast, *Electrician*

2012 Community Excellence Awards for Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage

Lowell National Historical Park and the Lowell Heritage Partnership celebrate the accomplishments of:

- **Kim Zunino**, Lowell Historic Board Assistant Administrator, for her dedicated efforts and in working with others toward the preservation of historic city cemeteries.
- **Connor Crosby**, a Lowell High School student, for the creation of the documentary, "Hard Truth, Levity and Hope," revealing the experiences of refugee students in Lowell.
- **The Tsongas Industrial History Center**, a University of Lowell and Park partnership, for special recognition in its 20th year of existence, with over one million students and educators having participated in the center's place-based educational programming.

Lowell National Historical Park
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Lowell Answers the Call to Action

As the National Park Service centennial approaches in 2016, the *Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement* was issued in August 2011 across the agency and to the 397 areas within. The Call charges the Service to, "...recommit to the exemplary stewardship and public enjoyment of these places" through a series of possible actions aligned in four themes:

- Connecting people to Parks
- Advancing the education mission
- Preserving America's special places
- Enhancing professional and organizational excellence

Lowell National Historical Park is committed to responding to the Call with creativity and imagination.



Stats 2011

Visitors: **541,910**

Tours, Events, and
Special Programs Offered: **5,424**

Visitor Satisfaction: **97%**

Visitor Understanding: **97%**

Lowell Summer Music Series:
22nd season * 27,422 attending